

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Agency 461

Department of Ecology

Recommendation Summary

Dollars in Thousands

| | Annual FTEs | General Fund State | Other Funds | Total Funds |
|---|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2015-17 Expenditure Authority | 1,610.6 | 49,489 | 425,712 | 475,201 |
| Supplemental Changes | | | | |
| Public Participation Grant Reduction | | | (1,300) | (1,300) |
| Fund Shift to Reclamation Account | | (750) | 750 | |
| Reduce Water Expenditures to Match Revenue | | | (297) | (297) |
| Fund Shift from Water Quality Permit Account | | | | |
| Air Quality Fund Shift | | | | |
| Shift Water Resource Data System | | (400) | 400 | |
| Technical Correction - Compensation | | | 834 | 834 |
| Lean Management Practices | | (93) | | (93) |
| HVAC Upgrades/Emergency Generator Replacement | | 271 | 1,280 | 1,551 |
| Rain Gauge Operation and Maintenance | .5 | | 86 | 86 |
| Attendance Tracking Replacement Project | 1.5 | 319 | 1,556 | 1,875 |
| Implement Chemical Action Plans | 3.7 | | 1,453 | 1,453 |
| Regional and Field Office Moves | | 90 | 441 | 531 |
| Workers' Compensation Changes | | (21) | (98) | (119) |
| Audit Services | | 15 | 68 | 83 |
| Legal Services | | 40 | 186 | 226 |
| CTS Central Services | | 34 | 160 | 194 |
| DES Central Services | | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Time, Leave and Attendance System | | 13 | 61 | 74 |
| Self-Insurance Liability Premium | | (14) | (68) | (82) |
| Subtotal - Supplemental Changes | 5.7 | (495) | 5,517 | 5,022 |
| Total Proposed Budget | 1,616.3 | 48,994 | 431,229 | 480,223 |
| Difference | 5.7 | (495) | 5,517 | 5,022 |
| Percent Change | 0.4% | (1.0)% | 1.3% | 1.1% |

SUPPLEMENTAL CHANGES

Public Participation Grant Reduction

Public participation grants enable not-for-profit public interest groups to involve and educate Washington residents about contaminated site cleanups and reduction of waste and toxics. Per RCW 70.105D.070, public participation grants must be funded at one percent of the moneys collected under the hazardous substance tax (HST). Funding is reduced on an ongoing basis to equalize 2015-17 expenditures with forecasted HST revenue, reducing capacity to fund approximately ten grant proposals. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Fund Shift to Reclamation Account

A one-time shift in funding is made from General Fund-State to the Reclamation Account for activities in the Water Resources program. (General Fund-State, Reclamation Account-State)

Reduce Water Expenditures to Match Revenue

Operating funding in the State and Local Improvement Revolving Account-Water Supply Facilities supports water resources work at the Department of Ecology, as well as bond-supported capital grants and loans for agricultural water supply facilities. In recent years, operating revenue has been insufficient to cover operating expenditure authority. Funding is reduced permanently to a level that can be supported with anticipated operating revenue. (State and Local Improvement Revolving Account-Water Supply Facilities-State)

Fund Shift from Water Quality Permit Account

A total of \$2.4 million in Water Quality program costs is shifted on a one-time basis to the Water Quality Permit Account from the State Toxics Control Account. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Water Quality Permit Account-State)

Air Quality Fund Shift

A total of \$700,000 in Air Quality program costs is shifted on a one-time basis from the State Toxics Control Account to the Air Pollution Control Account. (State Toxics Control Account-State, Air Pollution Control Account-State)

Shift Water Resource Data System

A total of \$400,000 in Water Resource Program costs is shifted on a one-time basis from General Fund-State to the Water Rights Tracking System Account-State. (General Fund-State, Water Rights Tracking System Account-State)

Technical Correction - Compensation

Changes to state employee pay and benefits that were approved in the 2015-17 budget were not uploaded into certain budgeted programs and accounts. This item makes the correction. (Radioactive Mixed Waste Account-State)

Lean Management Practices

Chapter 4, Laws of 2015, 3rd Special Session directs the Office of Financial Management to reduce agency allotments in the 2015-17 biennium to reflect efficiency savings. The reduced appropriations associated with the efficiency savings are reflected in agency budgets, and the corresponding reduction in the back of the budget is reversed.

HVAC Upgrades/Emergency Generator Replacement

The Department of Ecology is using certificates of participation (COP) to finance upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) and to replace the emergency generator at its headquarters facility in Lacey. The HVAC was kept in service beyond its life expectancy, creating maintenance challenges, inefficient use of energy and other problems. The generator replacement was needed to bring it up to code and protect Ecology's employees and business systems by reliably providing power during an outage. A combination of one-time and ongoing funding is provided for debt service for these COPs. (General Fund-State, State Toxics Control Account-State, Water Quality Permit Account-State, various other accounts)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

Rain Gauge Operation and Maintenance

The 2014 Carlton Complex fire burned 400 square miles in Okanogan County. The fire destroyed vegetation, increasing the risk of flash flooding during periods of heavy rainfall. To protect lives, the Department of Ecology deployed 17 rain gauges in the burned area, giving early warnings of flash floods during rain events. Ongoing funding and FTE staff are provided for operation, maintenance and repair of these gauges as well as monitoring, management and transmission of the data they produce. (Flood Control Assistance Account-State)

Attendance Tracking Replacement Project

Ecology's computer-based time-management system is outdated, inefficient and no longer fulfills today's business and compliance requirements. In 2013, Washington State procured user licenses for the WorkForce Software EmpCenter product as part of the planned statewide Time, Leave and Attendance project in which Ecology and the Department of Transportation participated. Even though the statewide project was discontinued, Ecology still needs to replace its obsolete system and implement a modern employee time and attendance tracking system that reduces risk to Ecology by improving compliance with statutory, regulatory and collective bargaining agreement rules and improving accuracy and efficiency in employee time reporting. One-time funding and FTE staff are provided to implement the system including software design, project management, employee training and quality assurance. (General Fund-State, State Toxics Control Account-State, Water Quality Permit Account-State, various other accounts)

Implement Chemical Action Plans

Thousands of toxic chemicals are currently in use, and some have characteristics that make them challenging and expensive to deal with if they are released into the environment. Often such chemicals impact air, water and sediment, resulting in a high likelihood that people and the environment will be harmed. Ecology addresses such chemicals through chemical action plans (CAPs). Ecology currently has funding to develop one CAP on an ongoing basis every three years, and no funding to implement new CAP recommendations. Funding and FTE staff are provided to increase the pace of CAP development and implement key CAP recommendations to reduce the impacts of toxic chemicals in Washington. (State Toxics Control Account-State)

Regional and Field Office Moves

Ecology's Vancouver field office is scheduled for relocation during the 2015-17 biennium, and the Bellingham field office is scheduled to move at the end of fiscal year 2017. Ongoing funding is provided to cover lease costs and one-time funding is provided to move staff, equipment, furniture, information technology infrastructure, and Ecology records. (General Fund-State, State Toxics Control Account-State, Water Quality Permit Account-State, various other accounts)

Workers' Compensation Changes

The agency's budget is adjusted to reflect increased workers' compensation rates. (General Fund-State, various other accounts)

Audit Services

The agency's budget is adjusted to update anticipated charges for state audit services and to shift funding between fiscal years to reflect the State Auditor's audit schedule. (General Fund-State, various other accounts)

Legal Services

The agency's budget is adjusted to reflect updated estimates of anticipated usage of Attorney General's Office legal services. (General Fund-State, various other accounts)

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

CTS Central Services

The agency's budget is adjusted to update its share of the state network, security gateways, enterprise security infrastructure, and secure file transfer charges from the Consolidated Technology Services Agency. (General Fund-State, various other accounts)

DES Central Services

The agency's budget is adjusted to update its allocated share of the following charges from the Department of Enterprise Services: small agency financial services, capital project surcharge, campus utilities, campus employee parking, financing cost recovery, public and historic facilities, and risk management administration. Additionally, small agency human resources clients are provided expenditure authority to pay for human resources services. (General Fund-State, various other accounts)

Time, Leave and Attendance System

The agency's budget is increased to pay the remaining debt service for the Time, Leave and Attendance system. (General Fund-State, various other accounts)

Self-Insurance Liability Premium

Based on a new actuarial report, updated risk factors were applied to agency self-insurance premiums, causing some to rise and some to fall. (General Fund-State, various other accounts)